

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A method for managing ~~situations of multiple~~ requests of span and ring events protections of different type in a telecommunications network with a four-fibers ring topology protected by a traffic protection mechanism in which signals arranged as frames of bytes are transmitted and in which the transmitted frames comprise a first pair of event signalling bytes for indicating the request of ring protection of at least one type, wherein the method further comprises the step of providing at least one additional pair of ~~event signalling~~ bytes in the transmitted frames, ~~the first pair of event signalling bytes being used for signalling events of a first type, whereas the~~ at least one additional pair of ~~event signalling~~ bytes being used for signalling events of a second type indicating the requests of span protections of at least two different types at the same time of the request of ring protection.

Claims 2-3 (canceled).

4. (currently amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein said telecommunications network is a transoceanic optical network ~~comprising nodes connected through fiber spans having at least four fibers comprising working channels and protection channels.~~

Claims 5-7 (cancelled).

8. (currently amended): The method according to claim 15, wherein ~~it the network~~ includes at least one path protected by the traffic protection mechanism, the method comprises

~~comprising the additional steps of processing the information carried by the first pair of event signalling bytes and by the at least one additional pair of event signalling bytes to perform operations designed, in case of multiple events of different type, to save as much traffic as possible and evaluating whether the at least one path can be protected taking into account the processed bytes.~~

9. (cancelled).

10. (currently amended): A telecommunication signal frame structure for a telecommunications network with a four-fibres ring topology protected by a traffic protection mechanism, the signal comprising a first pair of bytes used for signalling events indicating a request of ring protection of at least one type, wherein it further comprises at least one additional pair of bytes used for signalling events, ~~the first pair of bytes being used for signalling events of a first type only whereas the at least one additional pair of bytes being used for signalling events of a second type only~~ indicating requests of span protections of at least two different types at the same time of the request of ring protection.

Claims 11 and 12 (cancelled).

13. (original): A network element for a telecommunications network with a four-fibres ring topology protected by a traffic protection mechanism, wherein signals arranged as frames travelling through said network, ~~said network comprising:~~

~~nodes or network elements; and~~

~~fiber spans, said fibers spans connecting the network elements to form a ring, the network element comprising means for receiving signal frames comprising first event signalling bytes, the network element further comprising~~

means for receiving signal frames, the signal frames including at least one additional pair of event signalling bytes, the a first pair of event signalling bytes being used for signalling events of a first for indicating a request of ring protection of at least one type type whereas the and including at least one additional pair of event signalling bytes being used for signalling events of a second type for indicating requests of span protections of at least two different types at the same time of the request of ring protection.

14. (currently amended): A computer program product comprising computer program code adapted to perform all steps of the method according to claims 1, 4, or 8 when said program is run on a computer.

15. (currently amended): A computer readable medium having a program recorded thereon, said computer readable medium comprising computer program code adapted to perform all steps of the method according to claims 1, 4, or 8 when said program is run on a computer.

16. (new) The method according to claim 1, wherein said at least one additional pair of bytes are not yet reserved for other purposes.